

Application No. 10/609,162
Response to Office Action

Customer No. 01933

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Canceled).

2. (Currently Amended) A ~~plate-like~~ protective film comprising:

a ~~plate-like~~ material main body which protects a ~~plate-like~~ material structure;

5 a plurality of projections which: (i) are arranged continuously in ~~predetermined areas~~ at least at each of two opposite widthwise ends of the ~~plate-like~~ material main body, which are opposite ends of the material main body along a width direction thereof, and ~~which~~ (ii) are formed by respective parts

10 of the ~~plate-like~~ material main body to extend from a base portion of the ~~plate-like~~ material main body;

wherein each of the projections comprises a crown portion having a surface that is a plane that is substantially parallel with a main surface of the protected ~~plate-like~~ material

15 structure, and a side wall portion extending from the crown portion; and

wherein an amount by which the projection provided at ~~one widthwise end~~ a first one of the opposite widthwise ends of the ~~plate-like~~ protective film is shifted with respect to a

20 corresponding projection at ~~another widthwise end~~ a second one of

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the opposite widthwise ends is not smaller than 1/4 pitch and is not larger than 3/4 pitch.

Claims 3 and 4 (Canceled).

5. (Currently Amended) The ~~plate-like~~ protective film according to claim 2, wherein the plurality of projections project in at least two different directions from the base portion of the ~~plate-like~~ material main body.

6. (Currently Amended) The ~~plate-like~~ protective film according to claim 2, wherein the plurality of projections comprise first projections projecting from one surface of the ~~plate-like~~ material main body, and second projections projecting
5 from another surface of the ~~plate-like~~ material main body, and the first and second projections are arranged alternately along a direction in which the projections are arranged.

Claim 7 (Canceled).

8. (Currently Amended) A ~~plate-like~~ protective film comprising:

a ~~plate-like~~ material main body which protects a ~~plate-like~~ material structure;

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5 a plurality of projections which: (i) are arranged
continuously ~~in predetermined areas at least at each of two~~
opposite widthwise ends of the plate-like material main body,
which are opposite ends of the material main body along a width
direction thereof, and ~~which~~ (ii) are formed by respective parts
10 of the plate-like material main body to extend from a base
portion of the plate-like material main body;

 wherein each of the projections comprises a crown portion
having a surface that is a plane that is substantially parallel
with a main surface of the protected ~~plate-like~~ material
15 structure, and a side wall portion extending from the crown
portion; and

wherein the plurality of projections comprise first
projections projecting from a first surface of the material main
body, and second projections projecting from a second surface of
20 the material main body, and the first and second projections are
arranged alternately along a direction in which the projections
are arranged;

wherein the first and second projections are grouped into
pairs of projections, and each of the pairs includes of one of
25 the first projections and one of the second projections adjacent
to the one of the first projections; and

wherein for each of the pairs of projections, the crown
portions of the first projection and the second projection in a

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30 same pair have a same width along the direction in which the
projections are arranged, which is different from a width, along
the direction in which the projections are arranged, of the crown
portions of an adjacent pair of projections.

35 ~~wherein the plurality of crown portions have different~~
~~widths measured along a direction of arrangement of the~~
~~projections.~~

Claim 9-12 (Canceled).

13. (Currently Amended) The A plate-like protective film
according to claim 2, comprising:

~~a plate-like material main body which protects a plate-like~~
~~material structure,~~

5 ~~projections which are arranged continuously in predetermined~~
~~areas of the plate-like material main body and which are formed~~
~~by respective parts of the plate-like material main body to~~
~~extend from a base portion of the plate-like material main body,~~

10 ~~wherein each of the projections comprises a crown portion~~
~~having a surface that is a plane that is substantially parallel~~
~~with a main surface of the protected plate-like material~~
~~structure, and a side wall portion extending from the crown~~
~~portion; and~~

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15 wherein respective gap portions are formed between the plurality of projections, and the respective gap portions have at least two different widths measured along a direction of arrangement of the projections.

14. (Currently Amended) The ~~plate-like~~ protective film according to claim 2, wherein the projections are substantially trapezoidal as viewed from an end surface side of the ~~plate-like~~ material main body.

15. (Currently Amended) The ~~plate-like~~ protective film according to claim 2, wherein the projections are substantially U-shaped as viewed from one surface side of the ~~plate-like~~ material main body.

16. (Currently Amended) The ~~plate-like~~ protective film according to claim 2, wherein the projections are substantially semicircular as viewed from one surface side of the ~~plate-like~~ material main body.

17. (Currently Amended) The ~~plate-like~~ protective film according to claim 2, wherein the protected ~~plate-like~~ material structure comprises interconnect patterns, and the ~~predetermined~~

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~~areas~~ opposite widthwise ends of the ~~plate-like~~ material main body are not superimposed on the interconnect patterns.

18. (Currently Amended) The ~~plate-like~~ protective film according to claim 2, wherein the protected ~~plate-like~~ material structure comprises interconnect patterns and electronic components, and the ~~predetermined areas~~ opposite widthwise ends of the ~~plate-like~~ material main body are not superimposed on the interconnect patterns and electronic components.

19. (Currently Amended) The ~~plate-like~~ protective film according to claim 18, wherein the electronic components comprise semiconductor chips.

20. (Currently Amended) The ~~plate-like~~ protective film according to claim 2, wherein the ~~plate-like~~ material main body is long enough to protect the protected ~~plate-like~~ material structure.

21. (Currently Amended) The ~~plate-like~~ protective film according to claim 20, wherein the protected ~~plate-like~~ material structure comprises sprocket holes, and the ~~predetermined areas~~ opposite widthwise ends of the ~~plate-like~~ material main body are in proximity to the sprocket holes.

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22. (Currently Amended) The ~~plate-like~~ protective film according to claim 20, wherein the protected ~~plate-like~~ material structure comprises sprocket holes at opposite widthwise ends thereof, ~~and the predetermined areas of the plate-like material main body are the opposite widthwise ends of the plate-like material main body.~~

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23. (Currently Amended) The ~~plate-like~~ protective film according to claim 2, wherein the ~~plate-like~~ material main body has a sheet form so as to protect the protected ~~plate-like~~ material structure, which also has a sheet form.

Claim 24 (Canceled).

25. (Currently Amended) The ~~plate-like~~ protective film according to claim 23, ~~wherein the predetermined areas of the plate-like~~ further comprising:

projections which: (i) are arranged continuously at opposite
5 lengthwise ends of the material main body, which are opposite
ends of the material main body along a length direction thereof,
and (ii) which are formed by respective parts of the material
main body to extend from a base portion of the ~~are at least four~~
~~side areas of the plate-like material main body;~~

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10 wherein each of the projections comprises a crown portion having a surface that is a plane that is substantially parallel with the main surface of the protected material structure, and a side wall portion extending from the crown portion.

26. (Currently Amended) The ~~plate-like~~ protective film according to claim 13, wherein conductive layers are provided at least in areas of the ~~plate-like~~ material main body other than the opposite widthwise ends thereof.

27. (Currently Amended) The ~~plate-like~~ protective film according to claim 26, wherein the conductive layers are provided on respective surfaces of the ~~plate-like~~ material main body.